

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

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R 051610Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4993

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMA 3635

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, PE

SUBJECT: GATT BALANCE OF PAYMENTS COMMITTEE: PERU
CONSULTATIONS

REFS: STATE 083579, GENEVA 2317, LIMA 2532

1. EMBASSY OFFICER HAS CONVEYED SUBSTANCE OF PARAS. 2-3
OF STATE REFTEL BOTH TO FERNANDO GUILLEN, TRADE OFFICIAL
IN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND TO BOLIVAR PATINO, WHO HAS PARTIAL
RESPONSIBILITY FOR GATT AFFAIRS IN COMMERCE MINISTRY.
GUILLEN WAS APPRECIATIVE OF USG SUPPORT TO POSTPONE
BOP UNTIL LATE FALL. GUILLEN CLAIMED THAT HE REALIZES
FULL WELL THAT ARTICLE XVIII, SECTION B, COULD BE USED
TO JUSTIFY QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS AND SAID HE SHARED
GENERAL VIEW OF USG THAT THERE BE REGULAR REVIEW OF ALL
MEMBER COUNTRIES. HE ADDED IN CANDOR THAT HIS PRINCIPAL
CONCERN IS GO GALVANIZE COMMERCE MINISTER INTO PREPARING
NECESSARY MATERIALS FOR THE REVIEW, AND THAT GIVEN THAT
MINISTRY'S RELATIVE INEXPERIENCE HE WAS NOT HOPEFUL THAT
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IT WOULD DO THE JOB WITH SUFFICIENT DESPATCH TO MEET

EVEN A FALL DATELINE.

2. GULLLEN REFRAINED FROM MENTIONING POSSIBILITY THAT PERU MIGHT WITHDRAW FROM GATT AND IN FACT WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO EMPHASIZE IMPORTANT ROLE GATT CAN PLAY IN LIBERALIZING TRADE GENERALLY, EVEN THOUGH HE AGREED PERU WOULD NOT DO SO IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

3. PATINO ALSO TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT PERU VIEWS GATT MEMBERSHIP WITH FAVOR AND HE DID NOT FORESEE ANY POSSIBILITY THAT PERU MIGHT CONSIDER WITHDRAWING FROM THE ORGANIZATION. HE CONFIRMED GUILLEN'S VIEW THAT COMMERCE MINISTRY MONTHS HAVE PASSED, SINCE IT WILL TAKE TIME TO PREPARE ALL THE NECESSARY MATERIAL AND GATT BUSINESS HAS RELATIVELY LOW PRIORITY WITHIN THE NEW MINISTRY.

4. COMMENT: THESE CONVERSATIONS REVEALED FOR FIRST TIME FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DOUBTS ABOUT COMPETENCE AND WILLINGNESS OF COMMERCE MINISTRY TO FOCUS ON GATT ISSUES IN COHERENT MANNER. IT NOW APPEARS THAT GUILLEN'S EARLIER REMARKS ABOUT PERU CONSIDERING A WITHDRAWAL REFLECTED MORE A PERSONAL PIQUE THAN CONSIDERED GOP VIEWS, BASED ON HIS INABILITY TO GET COMMERCE TO COOPERATE WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON THIS ISSUE. GUILLEN COMMENTED IN THAT REGARD THAT NOW THAT THE BOP REVIEW HAS BEEN POSTPONED, COMMERCE PROBABLY WOULD NOT START PREPARING PAPERS UNTIL SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER SO THAT, IN HIS VIEW, EVEN A LATE FALL REVIEW IS UNLIKELY.

5. DEPARTMENT AND GENEVA REFTELS SERVED AS USEFUL BACKGROUND FOR US IN DISCUSSION WITH THESE OFFICIALS, ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT OVERLY SANGUINE ABOUT PERU ACTUALLY MEETING A DEADLINE THIS YEAR.
DEAN

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